

Introduced by Senator Ashburn
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Maze)
(Coauthor: Senator Florez)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Parra)

January 13, 2005

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1— Relative to the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 1, as introduced, Ashburn. Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to support the establishment of the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) for joint use by military aircraft from both the Naval Air Station Lemoore and the California Air National Guard, Fresno, and would request the Federal Aviation Administration to approve the creation of the Lemoore MOA as quickly as possible.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Navy at Naval Air Station
2 (NAS) Lemoore in joint partnership with the California Air
3 National Guard (CANG) 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, have
4 proposed the establishment of a new Military Operations Area
5 (MOA) over NAS Lemoore to satisfy many critical national
6 defense training requirements, the Lemoore MOA Initiative; and
7 WHEREAS, The current price of military aircraft training in
8 the existing training environment is substantial. The cost per
9 flight hour of military aircraft is high. The current need to travel
10 long distances to secure needed training requires large amounts
11 of fuel and time to transit to and from the training location.

1 Current training locations are increasingly crowded with other
2 joint users of the training airspaces, which interferes with the
3 quality of training and the safety of these training events. The
4 current need of our military personnel to travel within the United
5 States to secure needed training unavailable in the current
6 training environment increases their time away from home, in a
7 time where they are already overtaxed with overseas
8 commitments; and

9 WHEREAS, The benefits of training in the new Lemoore
10 MOA would be substantial because pilots would train closer to
11 home base and reduce the costs of longer transits to existing
12 training locations. The establishment of an additional, new
13 training airspace location would relieve the pressure on the
14 existing training locations increasing their training quality and
15 safety. Our military personnel would have reduced requirements
16 to travel away from home to secure needed training. It is
17 estimated that up to 30 million taxpayer dollars annually could be
18 saved or better utilized in training for national defense
19 requirements. The increase in military service member morale
20 resulting from fewer training deployments from home would also
21 be significant; and

22 WHEREAS, The existing NAS Lemoore Air Traffic Control
23 (ATC) airspace already exists and is approximately 30 nautical
24 miles by 70 nautical miles to support current NAS Lemoore
25 airport operations. The Lemoore MOA Initiative would allow
26 tactical training flights inside this existing airspace. No
27 supersonic, weapons employment, or aggressive maneuvering
28 flights over populated areas will be allowed in the new airspace;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the high altitudes of the
31 desired training flights and the sparsely populated rural
32 environment of the land below the Lemoore MOA will have
33 minimal environmental impact. To ensure this, the Navy in
34 cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is
35 completing an Environmental Assessment (EA). The Lemoore
36 MOA would not increase air emissions for the State
37 Implementation Plan. Military training flights over the Sierra
38 Nevada Mountains, including wilderness areas and the Sequoia
39 and Kings Canyon National Parks, could be reduced if some of
40 these flights were redirected to the Lemoore MOA; and

1 WHEREAS, The impact of the Lemoore MOA Initiative on
2 the current civilian air traffic environment is considered minimal.
3 The Navy in conjunction with the FAA is completing an
4 operational analysis on both military and civilian air traffic
5 patterns within the vicinity of NAS Lemoore. The footprint of the
6 Lemoore MOA does not impact most air traffic flows; and

7 WHEREAS, Both the Navy and FAA are conducting outreach
8 programs to the civilian aviation community to explain that the
9 Lemoore MOA Initiative will allow for simultaneous military
10 and civilian use of designated training airspace. These outreach
11 programs are also informing civilian pilots that the Lemoore
12 MOA will be managed in real time in an effort to prevent a
13 conflict between military and civilian aircraft; now, therefore, be
14 it

15 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
16 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
17 urges the President and the Congress of the United States to
18 support the establishment of the Lemoore Military Operations
19 Area for joint use by military aircraft from both the Naval Air
20 Station Lemoore and the California Air National Guard, Fresno;
21 and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature requests that the
23 Federal Aviation Administration approve the creation of the
24 Lemoore MOA as quickly as possible and that the California
25 Congressional delegation pursue all efforts to ensure that the
26 Lemoore MOA is established; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
29 States, each Senator and Representative from California in the
30 Congress of the United States, the Administrator of the Federal
31 Aviation Administration, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary
32 of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and to the author for
33 appropriate distribution.